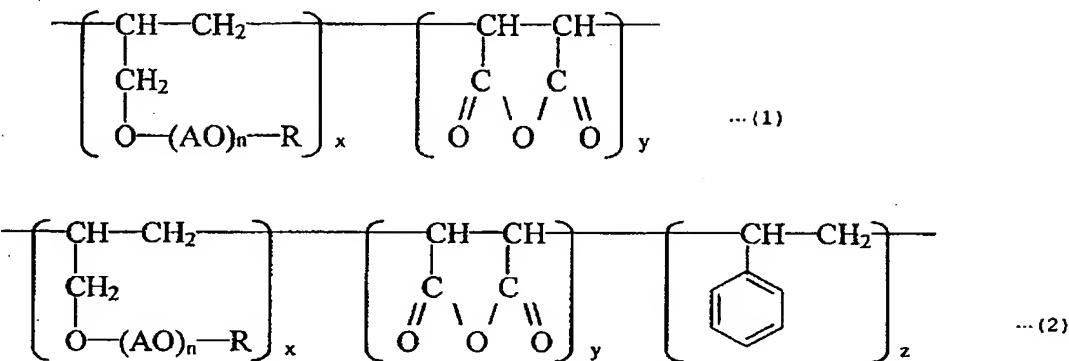


CLAIMS:

1. A resin particle, wherein the resin particle includes a resin and coil-shaped carbon fiber, wherein content of the  
5 coil-shaped carbon fiber in the resin particle is 15 wt% or less.
2. The resin particle according to claim 1, wherein the content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in the resin particle  
10 is 1 to 10 wt%.
3. The resin particle according to claim 1, wherein said coil-shaped carbon fiber is produced by a chemical vapor deposition method.  
15
4. A method for producing a resin particle, the method comprising:  
performing suspension polymerization or emulsion polymerization of a monomer for obtaining polymer particles  
20 containing a resin;  
adding coil-shaped carbon fiber to said monomer when said monomer is suspension polymerized or emulsion polymerized to thereby contain the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said polymer particles and obtain resin particles containing said resin and  
25 said coil-shaped carbon fiber, with content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said resin particles being 15 wt% or less.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein at least any one of a dispersant and a surfactant is added to said monomer so  
30 that the added coil-shaped carbon fiber stably disperses in said monomer.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said dispersant contains a maleic anhydride copolymer or a ring-opening  
35 reaction product thereof, wherein the maleic anhydride

copolymer includes a part represented by the below described formula (1) or formula (2)



5 wherein the letter A represents an alkylene group, wherein the letter R represents an alkyl group with the number of carbon atoms of any one of the integers 1 to 18 or a hydrogen atom, wherein the letter n represents any one of the integers 1 to 20, and wherein the letter x, y and z represent the  
10 copolymerization ratios of the respective units.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said surfactant contains an alkyl phosphate, an alkyl phosphate salt or a polyoxyethylene alkyl phosphate salt.

15 8. A foaming particle, wherein the foaming particle includes a resin, coil-shaped carbon fiber and a foaming agent, wherein content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in the foaming particle is 15 wt% or less.

20 9. The foaming particle according to claim 8, wherein the content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in the foaming particle is 1 to 10 wt%.

25 10. The foaming particle according to claim 8, wherein said coil-shaped carbon fiber is produced by a chemical vapor deposition method.

11. A method for producing a foaming particle, the method comprising:

performing suspension polymerization or emulsion polymerization of a monomer for obtaining polymer particles  
5 containing a resin;

adding coil-shaped carbon fiber to said monomer when said monomer is suspension polymerized or emulsion polymerized to thereby contain the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said polymer particles; and

10 impregnating a foaming agent into said polymer particles containing the coil-shaped carbon fiber, to thereby obtain foaming particles containing the resin, the coil-shaped carbon fiber and the foaming agent, with content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said foaming particles being 15 wt% or less.

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12. A foamed particle obtained by the process comprising:

foaming a resin particle containing a resin and coil-shaped carbon fiber with a foaming agent, wherein content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said resin particle is 15 wt%  
20 or less.

13. The foamed particle according to claim 12, wherein the foamed particle has a bulk density of 0.01 to 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

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14. A molded foam obtained by the process comprising:

foaming and molding resin particles containing a resin and coil-shaped carbon fiber with a foaming agent, wherein content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said resin particles is 15 wt% or less.

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15. The molded foam according to claim 14, wherein the molded foam has an apparent density of 0.01 to 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

16. A method for producing a molded foam, the method

35 comprising:

obtaining preliminarily foamed particles by foaming resin particles in which said resin particles contain a resin, coil-shaped carbon fiber and a foaming agent, with content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in said resin particles being 15 wt%  
5 or less;

filling a mold with said preliminarily foamed particles;  
and

foaming and molding said preliminarily foamed particles  
filling the mold at the same time to thereby obtain said  
10 molded foam.

17. A method for producing a molded foam, the method comprising:

filling a mold with resin particles in which said resin  
15 particles contain a resin, coil-shaped carbon fiber and a  
foaming agent, with content of the coil-shaped carbon fiber in  
said resin particles being 15 wt% or less; and

foaming and molding said resin particles filling the mold  
at the same time to thereby obtain said molded foam.

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